Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5163

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 10955

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID IN

SUBJECT: ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

REF: STATE 178779

- 1. IN INFORMAL TALK WITH S. V. S. JUNEJA, JOINT SECRETARY, MOF, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR POINTED OUT THAT USG HAD EXPLORED SEVERAL IDEAS IN ATTEMPT TO FORMULATE SOME COMPROMISE PROPOSED FOR THE ST. JOHN'S ENDOWMENT. GIVEN THE CLEAR INTENT OF THE LEGISLATION AND THE ATTITUDE OF INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN, HOWEVER, WE COULD FIND NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FULL ENDOWMENT.
- 2. AS A RESULT, USG WAS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING IDEA BROACHED IN GOI LETTER OF MAY 25, 1977 FOR SOME KIND OF FUND TO HELP INSTITUTIONS HELPING THE POOR, IF THE ST. JOHN'S ENDOWMENT COULD BE ACCEPTED AS A ONE-TIME EXDEPTION. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GOI THOUGHTS ON OPERATIONS AND LEVEL OF SUCH A FUND.
- 3. JUNEJA NOTED IDEA OF EXCEPTION FOR ST. JOHN'S SAYING THIS COULD BE EXPLORED. ON FUND HE SAID GOI WAS THINKING OF USG GRANT, EITHER A ONE TIME GRANT OR AN ANNUAL ONE, WITH CLEAR RULES ON THE TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE GRANTS FROM THE FUND. APPLICATIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY MOF, WHICH WOULD CLEAR PROPOSED PROJECT OR USE THROUGH PERTINENT MINISTRY TO ENSURE IT FELL WITHIN GOI PRIORITIES AND THEN CONSULT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 10955 031534Z

WITH USG. HE WOULD MAKE NO ESTIMATE ON LEVEL OF FUNDING NEEDED TO START SPECIAL FUND.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE NOW BACK TO AN INFORMAL BARGAINING POSITION WITH THE GOI ON THIS ISSUE. WE SEE THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO PASS OUR IDEAS ON A FUND TO THEM (ALWAYS WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE ST. JOHN'S ENDOWMENT BE ACCEPTED BY THEM.)

5. WE SUGGEST A MONDALE TYPE GRANT OF DOLS 10-20 MILLION IN RUPEE EQUIVALENT FOR SUPPORT OF PRIVATE MEDICAL FACILITIES THAT OFFER SERVICES TO THE POOR, OR FOR MEDICAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR RURAL HEALTH CENTERS. THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED GOHEEN

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